

**FMCS****FEDERAL MEDIATION &
CONCILIATION SERVICE**

SPEAKER'S BIO



EMIL P. TOTONCHI

**COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE**

Emil Totonchi is a Commissioner of the Federal and Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) assigned to the Chicago, IL field office. Mr. Totonchi joined FMCS in 2016 and assists private, public, and federal sector employers, unions, and employees in collective bargaining and other labor relations matters. In addition to other collective bargaining matters with a significant impact on the American economy, Mr. Totonchi mediated the 2019 negotiations between the Chicago Board of Education and the Chicago Teachers Union. Mr. Totonchi, a proficient Arabic speaker, represented FMCS in international training missions to Jordan in 2018 and 2019.

Prior to joining FMCS, Mr. Totonchi served as General Counsel for Teamsters Local 705 in Chicago. Teamsters Local 705 represents more than 15,000 members working in the freight, cartage, warehousing and moving industries, as well as in the public sector at the State and municipal levels. As General Counsel, Mr. Totonchi was extensively involved in collective bargaining, handled labor board cases at both the Federal and State levels, presented cases at arbitration, and advised the Local on internal governance and labor relations matters.

Mr. Totonchi also previously worked as Associate Counsel and, prior to attending law school, strategic researcher for SEIU Local 1 in Chicago, which represents over 50,000 members in the property services industry. In addition, he had prior experience in various capacities with the Solidarity Center, National Labor Relations Board Region 13, the National Treasury Employees Union, and a Peggy Browning Fellowship with the Chicago News Guild. Mr. Totonchi received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC. Mr. Totonchi, a licensed Illinois attorney, also holds a juris doctor and certificate in labor and employment law from Chicago-Kent College of Law.